

line of defense against threats and we owe them our gratitude. However, they need our federal assistance in carrying out their duties.

I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to work with me to pass the SAFE Border Act quickly into law.

EROSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my concern about continuing serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Kazakhstan, including substantial noncompliance with their Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratization and the holding of free and fair elections.

Kazakhstan has been a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) since 1992 and has freely accepted all OSCE commitments, including those concerning human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Kazakhstan has affirmed that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, expression, association, peaceful assembly and movement, freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and if charged with an offense the right to a fair and public trial. And, Kazakhstan has committed itself to build, consolidate, and strengthen democracy as the only system of government, and is obligated to hold free elections at reasonable intervals, to respect the right of citizens to seek political or public office without discrimination, to respect the right of individuals and groups to establish in full freedom their own political parties, and to allow parties and individuals wishing to participate in the electoral process access to the media on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Nevertheless, President Nursultan Nazarbaev dissolved parliament in 1993 and again in 1995, when he also annulled scheduled Presidential elections. He has also refused to register opposition parties, and has exited opposition figures and forced members of the media out of the country. On January 10, 1999, President Nazarbaev was reelected in snap Presidential elections from which a leading challenger was excluded for having addressed an unregistered organization, "For Free Elections," and the OSCE assessed the election as falling far short of international standards. Finally, on June 22, 2000, the Kazakhstan parliament approved draft legislation designed to give President Nazarbaev various powers and privileges for the rest of his life.

In March of this year, President Nazarbayev imprisoned two of his leading political rivals, Msrs. Mukhtar Ablyazov and Mr. Aymzhan Zhakiyanov, and former Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin remains in exile. Additionally, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan recently admitted that more than one billion dollars of Kazakh public monies had been transferred to off-shore bank accounts in President Nazarbayev's name.

President Nazarbayev's family owns and controls all major media outlets in Kazakhstan including television, radio and newspapers. The independent media in Kazakhstan, which used to be fairly free, has been pressured, co-opted, or crushed, leaving few outlets for the expression of independent or opposition views, thus limiting the press's ability to criticize or comment on the President's campaign to remain in office indefinitely or on high-level corruption.

I urge this Administration to make a more concerted and stronger effort to raise with President Nazarbayev at every opportunity, the concern about serious violations of human rights, including noncompliance with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democracy and rule of law. Kazakhstan needs to come into compliance with OSCE commitments on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, specifically the holding of free and fair elections that do not exclude genuine challengers, to permit independent and opposition parties and candidates to participate on an equal basis with representation in election commissions at all levels, and to allow domestic nongovernmental and political party observers, as well as international observers.

I also encourage the Administration to raise with the governments of other OSCE participating states the possible implications for OSCE participation of any participating state in the region that engages in clear, gross, and uncorrected violations of its OSCE commitments on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. To that end, Voice of America and Radio Liberty should expand broadcasting to Central Asia especially into Kazakhstan, as needed, with a focus on assuring that the peoples of the region have access to unbiased news and programs that support respect for human rights and the establishment of democracy and the rule of law.

ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JO ANN SHAPIRO

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, permit me to pay tribute to an individual who has dedicated her life to helping others. Jon Ann Shapiro has been a civic leader for most of her adult life and has lived her life by the axiom "Help people. Help those without a voice. Help those who no one else would have the compassion to assist." Honored Tuesday in New York Newsday's Queens Profile for her work with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Kiwanis Club and other community and political organizations, she has helped improve the quality of life of my constituents in the Rockaways, Broad Channel, Howard Beach and Ozone Park. Last year, as chairwoman of the annual Relay for Life event, she helped raise \$70,000 for cancer research. In her capacity as chief of staff to Assemblywoman Pheffer, she has further dedicated herself to serving the community, and helping constituents in need of assistance. I rise today to thank Jo Ann and congratulate her for her many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to submit for the RECORD Tuesday's New York Newsday's

Queens Profile which further details Jo Ann's many contributions to our community.

[From New York Newsday, May 21, 2002]

NEWSDAY QUEENS PROFILE—JO ANN SHAPIRO
(Sheila McKenna)

Role—Chief of staff for Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer (D-Rockaway Beach); chairwoman for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, June 8-9 at Beach Channel High School; past president of Kiwanis Club of Rockaway; member of St. Rose of Lima R.C. Church in Rockaway Beach.

Biography—42; native of Plainview, L.I., graduate of SUNY-Old Westbury, changed careers from a paraprofessional for the Board of Education to work for Pheffer, a longtime friend, in 1987; single and has lived in a co-op in Rockaway Beach two years.

Impact—"Ultimately, the goal of the event is to raise money, but it is secondary to what we accomplish in terms of bringing a community together. Relay for Life is really a celebration of those who are currently battling cancer—those who have been successful in their fight against cancer—and in recognition and remembrance of those who have not been successful."

Current Focus—"Relay for Life is an overnight event, and we ask that participants give up one night of sleep. Cancer is a disease that never sleeps, and we ask that for one night, people join us, and if they can't do that, they join us for as much as they want. It's kind of an outdoor pajama party, people bring tents and camp. It's a big sleepover party with games, music, entertainment, scavenger hunt, we even have movies at midnight. This is our second annual event in Rockaway—last year, we raised \$70,000."

Why She's Involved—"American Cancer Society's goal is to eliminate cancer as a health care concern for the people of the United States. How could I not be a part of something like that? For information, call 1-800-ACS-2345."

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE RUPP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. George Rupp, who is retiring on May 31 after 9 years of service as the 18th president of Columbia University.

Under Dr. Rupp's leadership, Columbia's long history as one of the nation's leading institutions of higher learning has been successfully extended into the 21st century. Columbia has thrived over the past decade. The accomplishments of its scholars and researchers have soared, as has its endowment. So, too, have the numbers of applicants to its college and many graduate and professional programs. The Columbia community is one of the greatest concentrations of talent and energy in the country, and helps keep New York at the center of the world's intellectual life.

Dr. Rupp's legacy will be measured, above all, by the University's significant and lasting impact on the community around it. Not once has he thought that his responsibilities stopped at the gates to campus. During Dr. Rupp's leadership, Columbia's remarkable pool of talent and energy has been increasingly directed to the duties of good citizenship.

Dr. Rupp has been a particularly forceful and innovative supporter of the University's efforts to address the disparities in opportunity